

Case 3643

***Mutilla clytemnestra* Fox, 1899 (currently *Dasymutilla clytemnestra*) and *Mutilla clytemnestra* Péringuey, 1899 (currently *Mutilla dasya* Péringuey, 1899): maintenance of current usage (Insecta, Hymenoptera, Aculeata, VESPOIDEA, MUTILLIDAE)**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3, 78.1 and 81.2.1 of the Code, is to maintain usage of the names *clytemnestra* Fox, 1899 (currently *Dasymutilla clytemnestra*) and *dasya* Péringuey, 1899 (currently *Mutilla dasya*) through suppression of the senior objective synonym *Mutilla clytemnestra* Péringuey, 1899 for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; VESPOIDEA; MUTILLIDAE; *Mutilla*; *Dasymutilla*; *Mutilla clytemnestra*; *Dasymutilla clytemnestra*; *Mutilla dasya*; velvet-ant; Nearctic; Afrotropical.

1. Péringuey (1899a, p. 360) proposed the name *Mutilla clytemnestra* for a new species of velvet-ant (MUTILLIDAE) from South Africa; the paper in which it appeared was published in March 1899, as printed on the cover of that part of the journal and confirmed in the fore-pages of the journal issued in December 1899.

2. Fox (1899, pp. 233 (in key), 246) proposed the name *Mutilla clytemnestra* for a new species of MUTILLIDAE from the U.S.A.; the paper in which it appeared was 'issued April 17, 1899', as printed on its cover. Although the various signatures included in the paper are imprinted with different dates (starting with January 1899 and progressing to March 1899, the name *M. clytemnestra* appearing in signatures dated January and February), there is no evidence that the journal concerned was issued in parts at that time; it appears, rather, that those dates refer to when the applicable pages were compiled or printed (Brown 1964; Neal Evenhuis, pers. comm., August 2013). All indications are, thus, that the printed date of 17 April 1899 must be accepted as the actual date of publication of the paper.

3. Péringuey (1899b, p. 450), in December, stated that his *M. clytemnestra* was preoccupied, and should be changed into *M. dasya*. He presumably considered that Fox's paper had appeared before his own, perhaps being misled by the dates on the signatures, but it seems that he was mistaken and that his own name actually had priority. On the next page (p. 451) Péringuey (1899b) provided captions for Plate VIII which illustrated his three papers on MUTILLIDAE published in that volume of the journal, and there also indicated *M. dasya* as the correct name for his *M. clytemnestra*.

4. André (1901, p. 338) referred to Péringuey's species as *Mutilla (Barymutilla) stupida* var. *Dasya* [sic]. However, in his comprehensive review of the MUTILLIDAE published in Wytsman's *Genera Insectorum* late the following year (for establishment of this date see Lelej & Brothers, 2008, p. 67), André (1902, p. 32) referred to it as *Barymutilla stupida* var. *Clytemnestra* [sic], presumably considering that the homonymy was no longer an issue since he had removed the Fox species from *Mutilla* Linnaeus, 1758 and placed it in *Ephuta (Ephuta)* Say, 1836 (André, 1902, p. 58).

5. All subsequent references to the Péringuey species have used the name *dasya* (Bischoff, 1920, pp. 211, 220; Bradley & Bequaert, 1928, p. 80).

6. Mickel (1928, pp. 41, 48, 126) placed *Mutilla clytemnestra* Fox in *Dasymutilla* Ashmead, 1899, where it has remained, always under the name *clytemnestra*, and for which there are no junior synonyms (e.g. Mickel, 1936, pp. 32, 45; Hurd 1951, pp. 92, 95; Krombein, 1951, p. 763; Krombein, 1958, p. 103; Manley, 1977, p. 553; Ward et al., 1977, p. 54; Krombein, 1979, p. 1306; Manley, 2000, p. 287). There have been suggestions that it should be regarded as a subspecies of *Dasymutilla coccineohirta* (Blake, 1871) or perhaps even a mere colour variety of it (Mickel, 1928; Hurd, 1951), but such suggestions have not been formally implemented, and are in any case matters of taxonomic preference rather than purely nomenclatural matters.

7. Despite the fact that neither species has been mentioned much in the literature, and the requirements for reversal of precedence set out in Article 23.9.1 of the Code are not met, it would be disruptive to overturn usages which have been in place for over a century, and to require another new name for the Fox species (that which has more often been referred to, and for which there are numerous specimens so identified in collections, this being a fairly common taxon in California, U.S.A.); stability and universality would not be served thereby.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *clytemnestra* Péringuey, 1899, as published in the binomen *Mutilla clytemnestra*, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *clytemnestra* Fox, 1899, as published in the binomen *Mutilla clytemnestra*, with the endorsement that it is not to be considered invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of the suppressed name *clytemnestra* Péringuey, 1899;
 - (b) *dasya* Péringuey, 1899, as published in the binomen *Mutilla dasya*, replacement name for the suppressed name *clytemnestra* Péringuey, 1899;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *clytemnestra* Péringuey, 1899, as published in the binomen *Mutilla clytemnestra*, and as suppressed in (1) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to I.C.Z.N. Secretariat, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).